

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update to an update service node or a client computer, ~~the data structure comprising:~~

~~an UpdateIdentity element used for~~ identifier element that uniquely identifies a ~~identifying the software update;~~

~~zero or more Properties~~ property elements ~~[[for]]~~ storing general properties relating to the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update;

~~zero or more LocalizedPropertiesCollection~~ localized property elements for storing ~~content~~ language specific information directed to a computer user relating to the software update;

~~zero or more Relationships~~ relationship elements ~~[[for]]~~ storing relationships the software update has to other software updates;

~~zero or more ApplicabilityRules~~ rule elements ~~[[for]]~~ storing rules for determining the applicability of the software update to a client computer;

~~zero or more Files~~ file elements identifying the identified software update's payload for ~~storing information describing and~~ information relating to the software update's payload; and

~~zero or more HandlerSpecificData tags for~~ handler elements storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software ~~update's specific type~~ update;

wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

3. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein the one or more additional elements of the ~~tag-based data structure~~, if present, ~~are included in the update metadata~~ are logically ordered according to the above-described order.

4. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim [[1]] 3, wherein the ~~UpdateIdentity~~ identity element includes a unique identifier ~~sub-element~~ that uniquely identifies the software update, and ~~a revision number sub-element~~ identifying a revision number associated with the software update.

5. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim [[1]] 3, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes [[a]] prerequisite ~~sub-element~~ information that identifies a second software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

6. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 5, wherein ~~the Relationships~~ each relationship element further includes ~~a plurality of prerequisite sub-elements~~ information identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on a client computer.

7. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim [[1]] 3, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes [[a]] bundle ~~sub-element~~ information that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

8. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 7, wherein the plurality of software updates ~~in the bundle sub-element~~ are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software ~~update~~ updates for installation on a client computer.

9. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~a supereedence~~ supersedence information sub-element that identifies at least one other software update that is ~~supereeded~~ superseded by the identified software update.

10. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 3, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~any number of~~ prerequisite ~~sub-elements~~ information that ~~identify~~ identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, ~~bundle sub-elements~~ information that ~~identify~~ identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively, and ~~supereedence~~ supersedence sub-elements information that ~~identify~~ identifies at least one other software update that is ~~supereeded~~ superseded by the identified software update.

11. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein ~~a Files~~ each file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 1, wherein ~~a Files~~ each file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on a client computer.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein ~~a Files~~ each file element further includes information identifying the software

update's payload for ~~both~~ patching existing files on a client computer and replacing existing files on a client computer.

14. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer-readable data organized in a tag-based data structure for communicating update metadata corresponding to a software update to an update service node or a client computer, ~~the tag-based data structure~~ comprising:

an ~~UpdateIdentity element used for~~ identifier element that uniquely identifies a software update;

property elements storing general properties relating the software update including update handler information identifying an update handler for installing the identified software update;

~~zero or more Relationships~~ relationship elements for storing relationships the software update has to other software updates; and

~~zero or more Files~~ file elements identifying the identified software update's payload for storing and information describing information relating to the software update's payload; and

handler elements storing information for executing the update handler identified in the property elements for installing the identified software update;

wherein the at least one additional element describing pertinent aspects of the identified software update is useful for determining the value and applicability of the identified software update such that communication resources may be preserved in not obtaining the identified software update if the identified software update is of no value or inapplicable for installation on a computing system.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the tag-based data structure is an XML data structure.

16. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 14, wherein the ~~UpdateIdentity~~ identity element includes a unique identifier ~~sub-element~~

that uniquely ~~further~~ identifies the software update, and a ~~revision number sub-element~~ ~~identifying~~ a revision number associated with the software update.

17. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein ~~the Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~[[a]] prerequisite sub-element information~~ that identifies a second software update that must be installed before the identified software update is installed.

18. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 17, ~~the Relationships~~ wherein each relationship element further includes ~~a plurality of prerequisite sub-elements information~~ identifying a plurality of software updates joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the identified software update for installation on a client computer.

19. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~[[a]] bundle sub-element information~~ that identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively.

20. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the plurality of software updates ~~in the bundle sub-element~~ are joined together with Boolean operators into a logical statement, such that the evaluation of the logical statement determines the suitability of the bundled software ~~update~~ updates for installation on a client computer.

21. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein ~~a Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~a supersedence supersedence information sub-element~~ that identifies at least one other software update that is ~~supereeded~~ superseded by the identified software update.

22. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein a ~~Relationships~~ each relationship element includes ~~any number of prerequisite sub-elements~~ information that ~~identify~~ identifies other software updates that must be installed before the identified software update is installed, bundle ~~sub-elements~~ information that ~~identify~~ identifies a plurality of software updates that must be installed coextensively, and ~~superecedence~~ supersedence ~~sub-elements~~ information that ~~identify~~ identifies at least one other software update that is ~~supereceded~~ superseded by the identified software update.

23. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein a ~~Files~~ each file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for patching existing files on a client computer.

24. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein a ~~Files~~ each file element includes information identifying the software update's payload for replacing existing files on a client computer.

25. (Currently amended) The ~~tag-based data structure~~ computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein each file element further includes information identifying the software update's payload for ~~both~~ patching existing files on a client computer and replacing existing files on a client computer.